

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 USPS-02 EB-11 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ABF-01 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-14 /138 W

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R 081533Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2367

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UPU, PFOR, ETEL, GW

SUBJECT: UPU CONGRESS

REF: STATE 91840

SUMMARY: GERMANS WOULD BE WILLING, WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS, TO GO TO "50-UNIT CATEGORY". THEY SEE LITTLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION DELETING MANDATORY ROTATION, BUT FAVOR DELETION IN PRINCIPLE AND WOULD VOTE FOR RESOLUTION IF CONVINCED IT HAD REASONABLE CHANCE OF PASSAGE. FOR TACTICAL REASONS, THEY ARE UNWILLING TO CO-SPONSOR SUCH A RESOLUTION. THEY ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT SOME INCREASE IN SIZE OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BUT REGARD EIGHT ADDITIONAL SEATS AS EXCESSIVE. THEY BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR WESTERN DELEGATIONS TO COORDINATE CLOSELY IN LAUSANNE IN INTEREST OF BEST POSSIBLE BARGAINING POSITION TOWARDS LDC'S. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. SCHMITZ, WHO HEADS FONOFF DIVISION DEALING WITH UN SUBSIDIARY ORGANIZATIONS, TOLD EMBOFF MAY 7 THAT FRG POSTAL AUTHORITIES WOULD BE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT NEW 50-UNIT CATEGORY ENTAILING ENLARGED CONTRIBUTION FROM MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. FRG ATTACHES TWO CONDITIONS TO THIS: (A) RISE IN LEVEL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTRIBUTIONS BY WEALTHY INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS SHOULD

NOT BE ACCOMPANIED BY REDUCTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY LDC'S; IF THIS WERE THE RATIONALE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 50-UNIT CATEGORY, FRG COULD NOT GO ALONG. (B) A "REASONABLE NUMBER" OF COUNTRIES NOW IN THE 25-UNIT CATEGORY WOULD HAVE TO ACCOMPANY THE FRG, U.S., AND OTHERS IN ENLARGING THEIR CONTRIBUTION. SCHMITZ COMMENTED THAT HE SAW A CERTAIN DANGER IN VOLUNTARY ENLARGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS UNLESS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THEM WAS CONSISTENTLY USED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CONCESSIONS IN OTHER AREAS FROM LDC'S.

2. SCHMITZ SAID THAT THE FRG FAVORS ABOLITION OF THE MANDATORY ROTATION RULE IN PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, IT BELIEVES THAT LDC'S ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO GO ALONG. SINCE FRG ITSELF EXPECTS TO BE CANDIDATE FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AGAIN THIS YEAR (AFTER FIVE YEARS ABSENCE), IT HAS TACTICAL REASON FOR WANTING TO TREAD VERY LIGHTLY ON THIS QUESTION. FRG OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS ITS CHANCES OF ELECTION GOOD AND IS APPARENTLY CONVINCED THEY WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED IF IT ANTAGONIZED LDC'S BY SUPPORTING PROPOSAL WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD CREATE A CLASS OF PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. THUS, FRG COULD NOT AGREE TO CO-SPONSOR. IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO VOTE FOR ABOLITION OF MANDATORY ROTATION IF, CONTRARY TO EXPECTATION, A RESOLUTION TO THIS EFFECT APPEARED TO HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSAGE. HOWEVER, FRG SAW NO REASON TO WASTE ITS OWN CHANCES BY SUPPORTING A HOPELESS CAUSE. A MORE PROMISING ALTERNATIVE TO ABOLITION OF MANDATORY ROTATION, SCHMITZ THOUGHT, MIGHT BE TO REDUCE THE LENGTH OF THE TERM TO TWO OR THREE YEARS.

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3. SCHMITZ SAID THAT THE FRG PROBABLY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ONE PROPOSAL SO FAR MADE (PRESUMABLY THAT OF PAKISTAN) CALLED FOR AN INCREASE OF EIGHT, WHICH THE FRG THOUGHT WAS TOO MUCH. NEVERTHELESS, IT DID APPEAR APPROPRIATE IN AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TERMS RUN FOR AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS TO MAKE THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS REPRESENTATIVE AS POSSIBLE, AND THIS ARGUED FOR SOME ENLARGEMENT.

4. COMMENT: SCHMITZ WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ABILITY OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TO CARRY THE DAY ON ANY SINGLE ISSUE AT THE UPU CONGRESS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IN THE END THE LDC'S COULD PUT THROUGH VIRTUALLY ANY ENLARGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL THAT THEY WANTED. THIS MEANT THAT THE WILLINGNESS OF WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO ENVISION SOME SUCH ENLARGEMENT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY CARRY MUCH WEIGHT IN BARGAINING FOR LDC SUPPORT OF CHANGES DESIRED BY THE WEST. SCHMITZ THOUGHT THAT THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS HAD A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING SUPPORT FOR THE ABOLITION OF MANDATORY ROTATION IF THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME A NEW 50-UNIT CATEGORY FOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS DEPENDED ON SUCH SUPPORT. IN ANY CASE, SCHMITZ SAID IT

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WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO COORDINATE POSITIONS CLOSELY BETWEEN WESTERN COUNTRIES AT LAUSANNE IF BARGAINING OF THIS KIND WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY. END COMMENT.

5. HERR GENTZ, WHO WILL BE FONOFF REP ON FRG DEL, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW NAME OF US POLAD AND ESTABLISH CONTACT AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN LAUSANNE.

HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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